

*Ginerva Gambino*

**Vanessa Conte**  
***Up to Your Neck***

February 01 - March 30, 2019

A CHORUS

*Parking lot of a shopping mall. 4:30PM in November. A two-person chorus enters parking lot in a car. They park five meters away from Amy, who is sitting in the driver's seat of her car drinking a large soda and reading a magazine.*

ONE: *(Looking through windshield toward Amy)* Amy goes forward inhibited by nothing but reformed by all. What could you teach someone like that? *(Turns to ANOTHER)* She is heedless! *(Looks again toward Amy)* A 'thickheaded blond' she has been called by those who know her, who have seen her just lumber toward catastrophes, taking the heat like she couldn't see it before her own eyes. Disaster strikes and Amy is ground zero. How can you argue?

ANOTHER: *(Stares at ONE)* Who's arguing? But a *disaster*? A disaster is something you can't see until you're in it. *(Looks with ONE toward Amy)* Nope. No, she runs right off the cliff and falls real hard with her whole self—all of her, ass-forward sometimes. Driven.

ONE: It's blindness. She can't even see herself. *(Shakes head)*

ANOTHER: *(Turns with mild incredulity to ONE)* Aren't you naïve! Almost as bad as you say she is. *(Gestures with one hand toward Amy)* It's magnetism. It's a scent like prey has. She makes it and, whoa, does it deliver.

ONE: *(Still staring out the windshield)* Like I said, she can't even see herself.

ANOTHER: *(Still turned toward ONE)* Would that make a difference? Let's say she can't, or won't, see herself. Would that make a difference? Even if she can't, she's reminded day in and day out, reformed by all! Your words. *Ground zero.*

ONE: *(Almost mumbling)* Well, whatever she's getting is not sinking in. Thickheaded fool. That person cannot learn. *(Louder)* You say driven! Driven to the edge of sanity, into a brick wall.

ANOTHER: Brick *walls.* *(Sighs)* You're not paying attention.

## *Ginerva Gambino*

Following her participation in “The Yellow Wallpaper” (2017) and our solo presentation at Frieze London last fall, “Up to Your Neck” will be the artist’s first solo show at the gallery.

Vanessa Conte (b. 1977 in Yonkers, New York) lives and works in Glendale, California. She holds an MFA from the University of California, Los Angeles, and an MA in Linguistics from Cal State University in Long Beach. Conte’s work has been shown at JB Jurve, Los Angeles; Hester Gallery, New York; Various Small Fires, Los Angeles; Gavin Brown’s Enterprise, New York; Night Gallery, Los Angeles; Commonwealth & Council, Los Angeles; Delmes & Zander, Cologne et.al.

Conte published several short stories of corporal punishment fiction using pseudonyms, before releasing “Cures for Pouting Girls” (New York, 2016), under her own name. In the fall of last year she published “Heavy Penalties” with Random Man Editions (New York), which consists of a selection of her latest graphite drawings. Both publications are available through the gallery.